

Application Serial No. 10/613,263

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for making a cylindrical member from a sheet material, the apparatus including a frame; first and second elongate rotatable rollers arranged and supported by the frame so that their length axis are substantially parallel in a vertical plane and spaced apart from one another in a horizontal plane, a third elongate rotatable roller being arranged and supported by the frame so that the length axis of the third roller in the horizontal plane is between the length axis of the first and second rollers and the length axis of the third roller in the vertical plane is above the length axis of the first and second rollers; a drive system operatively associated with each of the rollers for driving the rollers in a synchronized rotating motion; and an anti-deflection system operatively associated with the third roller and including a rigid member and roller contacting members connected to the rigid member for contacting desired portions of the third roller to urge the third roller so that it remains substantially axially linear when force is applied to it during manufacture of the cylindrical member.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the rollers each have a length of at least about 14 feet.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the rollers each have a length of at least about 25 feet.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising an adjustment system operatively associated with the frame, the third roller, and the anti-deflection system for simultaneously adjusting the vertical position of the third roller and the anti-deflection system.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising fasteners adjustably connected to the rigid member for adjusting the vertical position of the roller contact members relative to the third roller.

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Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising at least one roller support member positioned underneath and in contact with the first and second rollers to maintain each of the first and second rollers in a substantially axially linear orientation when force is applied to the first and second rollers during manufacture of the cylindrical member.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A method for making a cylindrical member of a pontoon, the method including the steps of providing a sheet of aluminum having a length of at least 14 feet, and encircling the sheet about its length axis so as to have an internal diameter of at least about 20 inches using at least one roller having a length of at least 14 feet while simultaneously urging portions of the at least one roller in a desired direction so that the roller is substantially axially linear, and welding the thus encircled sheet to itself by use of a single longitudinal weld to yield the cylindrical member, wherein the cylindrical member is substantially linear along its length axis and does not exhibit a bow, curvature, or other deviation in excess of about 1/2 inch.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the at least one roller comprises three rollers each having a length of at least 14 feet and the step of simultaneously urging the at least one roller comprises simultaneously urging portions of each of the three rollers in desired directions so that each of the rollers is substantially axially linear.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the sheet of aluminum has a length of at least about 20 feet.

Claim 18. (New) A method for making a cylindrical member of a pontoon, the method comprising the steps of providing a sheet of aluminum having a length of at least 14 feet, encircling the sheet about its length axis so as to have an internal diameter of at least about 20 inches, and welding the thus encircled sheet to itself by use of a single longitudinal weld to yield the cylindrical member, wherein the cylindrical member is substantially linear along its length axis and does not exhibit a bow, curvature, or other deviation in excess of about 1/2 inch.